

Kinnock condones resolution on violence by police

● Mr Kinnock was forced to accept the proposition that the police are guilty of organized violence against miners, in a resolution to be put today to the Labour Party conference

● A stockbroking firm says that, to avoid power cuts, coal will have to be moved from strike-bound pits by November (page 2)

● Mr Arthur Scargill again blamed the police for violence on picket lines and said they and the judiciary were being used in a political role

● Leaders of the pit deputies' union, Nacods, are expected to discuss with the coal board today a new review procedure to close "exhausted" mines

From Julian Haviland, Political Editor, Blackpool

Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday disappointed many influential supporters in the Labour Party by tacit acquiescence in the proposition that the police are guilty of "organized violence against miners and their communities".

The proposition, contained in a resolution drafted by the National Union of Mineworkers, will be put to Labour's annual conference when it opens in Blackpool today by Mr Arthur Scargill, and will be accepted in the name of the party leadership by Mr Tony Benn.

None of Mr Kinnock's acquaintances believed last night that he approves of the terms of the resolution, which says nothing about attacks made against the police or against working miners and their families. Mr Kinnock has frequently condemned such attacks, although without satisfying his political opponents.

But fellow members of Labour's National Executive Committee last night said that they felt "sick" at Mr Kinnock's failure during discussions in the NEC to try to prevent adoption of a declaration which they fear will damage the party.

One NEC member said that the course of today's debate on the coal dispute would now leave an indelible impression on voters' minds.

The crucial moment came when the NEC had to decide, in private discussion, whether Mr Benn should ask conference to accept, reject, or shelve the mineworkers' resolution.

Although many NEC members, perhaps a majority,

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favoured rejection, they knew that Conference would not reject. But there was a strong view that the leadership should at all costs be seen to "go down fighting".

So, when acceptance was proposed, Mr Kinnock's supporters waited for him to argue that the resolution be remitted or shelved, he made no move, and neither did his deputy, Mr Roy Hattersley.

Mr Benn will therefore commend the damaging resolution to Conference today with Mr Kinnock's apparent blessing.

Its effect threatens to obliterate that of the NEC's own carefully-prepared statement, which will also be adopted tomorrow, from which all criticism of the police was excised in order to highlight criticism of the government's energy policies.

One close associate said that Mr Kinnock had decided "not to put his head over the parapet" at an impossible juncture when he had enough on his hands in his fight to help Labour MPs by changing the reselection rules.

But here, too, Mr Kinnock encountered criticism for making a tactical retreat yesterday.

Conference is expected narrowly to agree today to the rule changes for which Mr Kinnock has argued strongly. They will allow local Labour parties to give every member a vote on the question of whether a sitting Labour MP should be dropped.

The intention is to give greater protection to many MPs who feel threatened, and the move has been resisted by left-wingers who still hope that conference will block Mr Kinnock by voting for a year's delay.



A bicycle made for two . . . Mr Kinnock in carefree mood yesterday.

Shultz says Gromyko deal on regular talks a milestone

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The US and the Soviet Union milestone on the way to more The President tried to as- have agreed on a "process" for stable relations.

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The Times (London, England), Monday, Oct 01, 1984; pg. 1; Issue 61950. (608 words)

Category: News

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Gale Document Number:CS17141569